2. *Casualties*:—Mr. A. Govinda Pillai, the Senior Puisne Judge of the High Court, retired on the 6th Vrischikam 1084. His service was throughout honorable and efficient; his last work was as President of the Committee appointed to enquire into and report on the customary laws regarding marriage and inheritance prevailing among Samanthas and Nairs. His Highness' Government hope soon to take up the report of this Committee for consideration. Mr. N. Ananda Row, the District and Sessions Judge of Quilon, retired on the last day of the year, on a well-earned pension. The other officers, who severed their connection with the State during the year, were Mr. P. V. Krishnaswami Chettiyar, the Financial Secretary, and Col. James, the Darbar Physician.

3. *The Administration Report for 1084*:—The Administration Report for 1084 has been prepared, and copies of it—in English and in the Vernacular—have been placed in the hands of the Members. I shall, in this address, confine myself to a reference to such of the features of the last year's administration as appear worthy of special mention; and I shall also supplement the information given in the report wherever it is found possible to do so.

Land Revenue and Agriculture.

4. *Revenue Settlement*:—The Revenue Settlement continued to make good progress. Twenty-six taluks having been already settled, the operations of the Settlement Department extended during the year over the remaining six taluks. The new taxes will be introduced in these six taluks during 1085. There is every reason to hope that settlement operations would be brought to a close before the end of the current year. Substantial reductions have already been made in the staff of the Department. On account of the reductions, the expenditure on the Department fell from Rs. 3,18,000 to Rs. 1,86,000.

5. *Demand, Collection and Balance*:—The current Land Revenue Demand rose from Rs. 29,54,000 to Rs. 35,70,000, in other words, by Rs. 6,16,000. Of this increase, a sum of about Rs. 2,00,000 was due to the progress of Settlement, about Rs. 3,38,000 to the acreage value and arrears of tax imposed on the *puthuval* and *thanathuchittah* lands brought under registry during the year, about Rs. 64,000 to the sale of the *poramboke* lands thrown open to cultivation, and about Rs. 15,000 to the enhanced tax on some coffee and tea lands. About 98 p. c. of the current demand was collected during the year. Substantial progress was also made in collecting or writing off the old arrears. The pending balance on the last day of the year was Rs. 1½ lacs, out of which Rs. 62,000 pertained to arrears and Rs. 88,000 to the current demand. Though good progress was generally made in disposing of the *puthuval* and *thanathuchittah* cases, the arrears of *puthuval* cases in the Trivandrum Division continued heavy.

6. *Revision of the subordinate staff*:—His Highness' Government felt that no permanent improvement could be expected in the Land Revenue administration unless the Village staff was redistributed, the quality of the Taluk and Divisional staff was improved and substantial increase of pay was given to all ranks of the subordinate service. The main evil hitherto was that the uniform adopted, namely, the *proverthi*, was, in many cases, unduly large. So long ago as the

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